

February 22, 2013

TESTIMONY IN FAVOR OF PROPOSED HOUSE BILL 5494
AN ACT ESTABLISHING FRENCH CANADIAN AMERICAN DAY

Greetings, Chairman Musto, Chairman Jutila, Vice Chairman Meyer, Vice Chairman Lesser, Ranking Member McLachlan, Ranking Member Hwang, and members of the Government Administration and Elections Committee.

My name is Yvette Fleming, nee Cormier, and I am a French Canadian American.

I am testifying in favor of Proposed House Bill 5494, AN ACT ESTABLISHING FRENCH CANADIAN AMERICAN DAY. My reasons for this are quite simple – to recognize the proud heritage I share with many others in this great state, as well as to pay tribute to the hard work and dedication of those like my parents, who came to this country not only for the opportunities it offers, but to make this country a better place.

My parents came here in 1960 with two small children in tow and not much else. They pursued US Citizenship because they wanted to contribute to this country and enjoy all that it offers. I was the third child blessed to be born to Marcel and Jeannette Cormier, and all my life, my parents always stressed with me the importance of being of dual heritage. I enjoyed not only the benefits of French being spoken at home, but also I am an American and proud of it.

French Canadians have come to this country for many years and contributed in many ways, from enriching American lives with French Canadian culture, creating jobs in businesses, and serving in our American Military.

I ask you to pass this Act, and *merci* for your consideration.

Most sincerely,

Yvette Fleming
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